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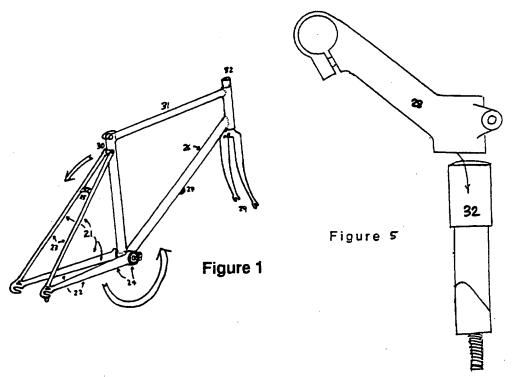
GB 2289874 A GB 2270051 A GB 2260300 A GB 0415843 A US 5125678 A US 5069468 A

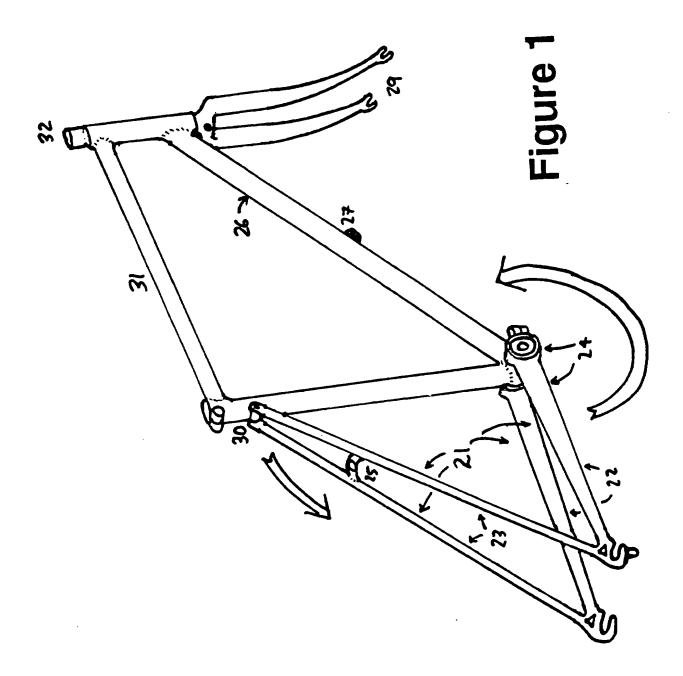
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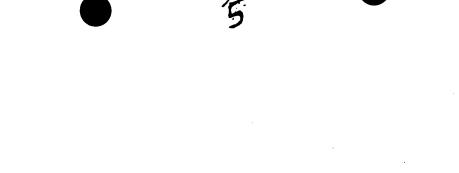
(58) Field of Search
UK CL (Edition O) B7E ECF
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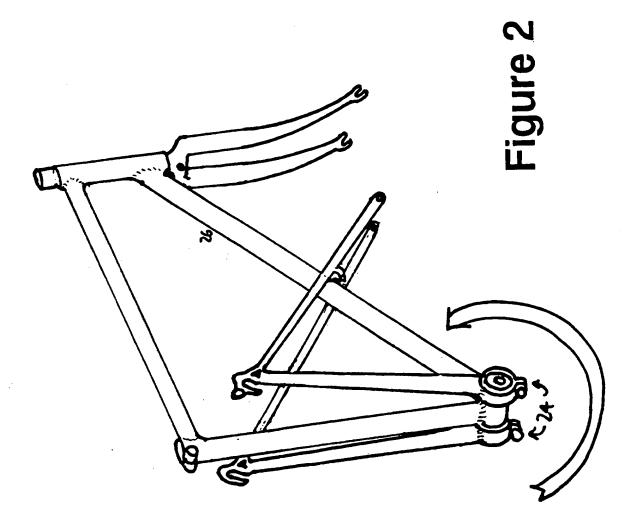
(54) Folding, dismantleable bicycle with full size wheels and full diamond frame

(57) Rear "triangle" 21 detaches near the seat clamp and pivots, using clamps 24 (detail, fig. 3) about or near the bottom bracket, forwards to overlap the main tube triangle (fig.2), such that bridge 25 rests against rubber stop 27 on down tube 26. Seat, wheels, and cranks may be detached using quick release fittings. The handlebars and stem extension 28 are removeably attached to the fork column by a quill or boss with a clamp. Stem 28 may be a "stoker" stem, as used on the rear of a tandem. Gear and brake mechanisms, chain and control cables remain attached during folding and unfolding operations. The rear triangle may be attached to the main frame with a spring and damper at point 30, thus effecting rear suspension. In this embodiment, clamp 24 would remain unclamped, allowing the hinge to act as a suspension pivot.

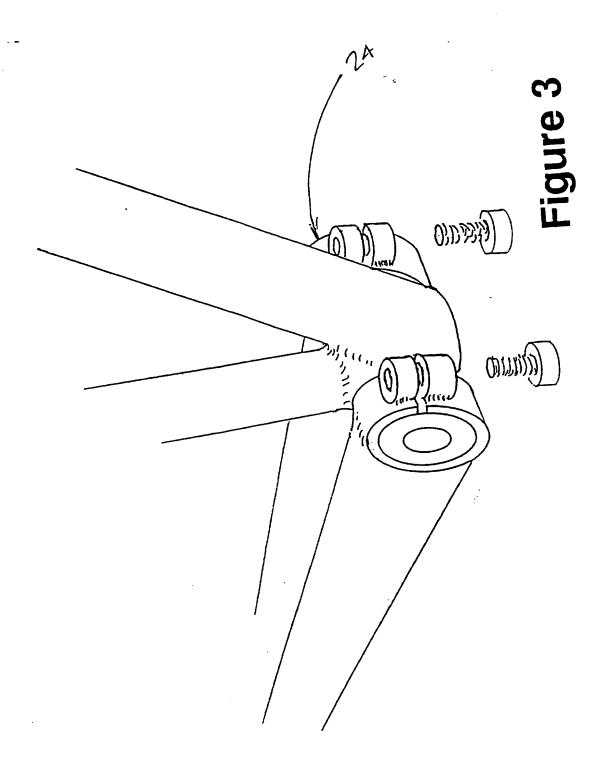




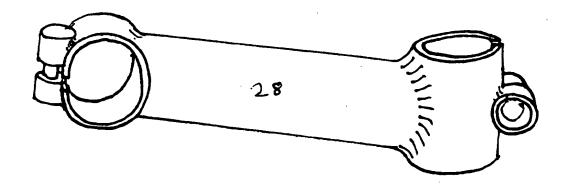




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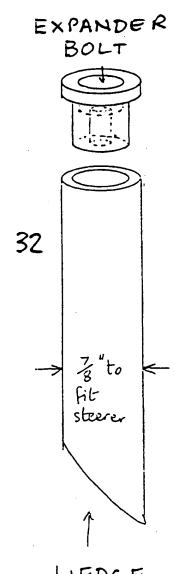
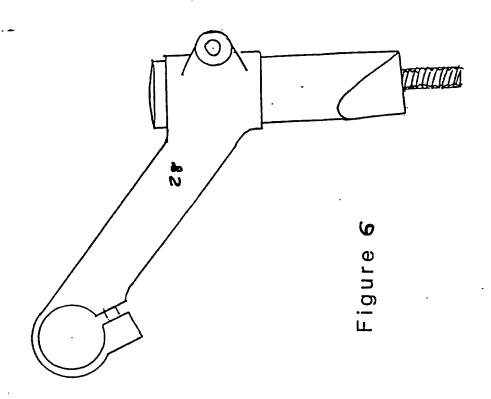
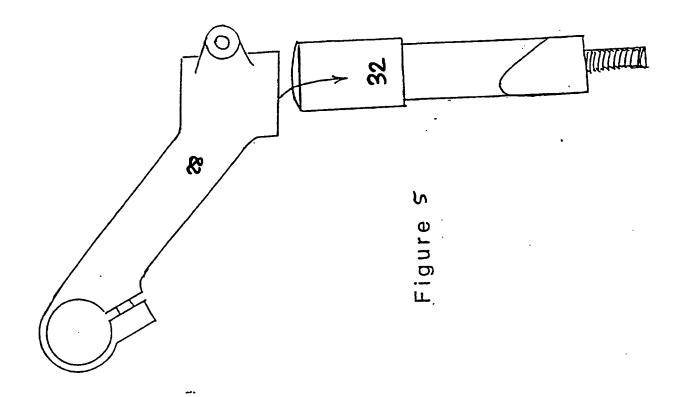


Figure 4

WEDGE





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FOLDING DISMANTLEABLE BICYCLE

This invention relates to a bicycle which can be dismantled and folded for compactness, carriage and storage.

Folding bicycles are readily available but are rarely lightweight orthodox diamond frame designs with full size wheels. Almost all bicycles may be dismantled, though the process may be difficult and require special tools and skills.

Transport companies make few restrictions when conveying covered, collapsed bicycles as passengers' luggage, but often restrict uncovered and fully erected bicycles. Private car luggage spaces are usually too small for full size bicycles and either roof and boot racks are required to carry them or the bicycle must be dismantled extensively.

Left luggage facilities may refuse bicycles as an item but accept a more compact package containing one.

An enclosed, compactly packed bicycle may be more acceptibly stored within a dwelling or inside at work for security.

According to the present invention there is provided an almost completely orthodox double diamond frame, whose rear triangle swings about an axis at or near the bottom bracket. The rear triangle in normal use is bolted to the seat tube.

The handlebars, which may be road cycle "drops" or mountain cycle "straights", are fitted to a stem usually found on the rear of a tandem bicycle called a "stoker-stem". This in turn is attached to a boss joined to the steerer tube in the normal fashion.

A specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of explaining the dismantling, folding and packing process, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows the frame in riding geometry
Figure 2 shows the frame folded
Figure 3 shows detail at the bottom bracket
Figure 4 shows details of the stem

After the wheels have been removed, the rear triangle 21 (composed of chain stays 22 and seat stays 23) are unbolted, the hinge 24 unclamped and the triangle swung down and forward so that the bridge 25 rests against the down tube 26 itself protected by a rubber buffer? (if required). The hinge is then reclamped. The saddle, seat post, cranks, chainring and pedals may be removed by way of their orthodox fixings. The "stoker" stem 28, handlebars and brake-levers are removed by way of its clamp bolt(s) from boss 32. The front fork 29 may be reversed for more compactness.

The bicycle now occupies a space little larger than its wheels, and little wider than two wheel widths.

All bolts used in this design may be replaced by standard quick release bolts to minimise the use of tools and speed folding and disassembly.

If required, the hinges may be assembled loosely and a compression spring and damper used to attach the upper part of the rear triangle to the frame at 30 resulting in rear supension.

Proprietry frame components are used throughout, except the hingeclamp members 24; cable runs will employ orthodox routings and components, but the rear brake may require a top-tube (31) cable, which may be parted: such accessories are commercially available; a fillet brazed or welded lugless cylindrical bottom bracket shell may be used, or custom castings of the bottom bracket lug obtained.

To re-assemble the bicycle, the steps described above are carried out in the reverse sequence.

* via topeyes at the scatchister 30

CLAIMS

- A folding bicycle whose frame hinges about an axis near and parallel to or colinear with the bottom bracket axle.
- 2 A folding bicycle whose hinge is clamped rigidly before the folding process.
- 3 A folding bicycle whose hinge is clamped rigidly after the folding process.
- A folding bicycle of diamond frame geometry using orthodox wheels and components.
- A bicycle whose handlebars and stem extension are easily detached from the stem quill or a plug or boss fitted to the steering column.
- A folding bicycle whose folding action is combined with rear suspension.
- A folding cycle employing a completely orthodox rear triangle permamently assembled into one piece composed of chain-stays, seat-stays, top-eyes, ends and brake bridge.
- A folding cycle employing a completely orthodox rear triangle which is clamped to the bottom bracket and bolted to the seat cluster therefore resulting in a rigid frame.

Patents Act 1977 Examiner's report to the Comptroller under Section 17 (The Search report)	Application number GB 95196	
Relevant Technical Fields	Search Examiner K STRACHAN	
(i) UK Cl (Ed.O) B7E (ECF)		
(ii) Int Cl (Ed.6) B62K (15/00)	Date of completion of Search 22 JANUARY 1996	
Databases (see below) (i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.	Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims:-	
(ii)		

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Categories of documents

X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step.

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Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.

A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.

&: Member of the same patent family; corresponding document.

Category	ldentity	Relevant to claim(s)	
х	GB 2289874 A	(PARRY) notice that Claim 1 is identical to Claim 1 in this application	1-5, 7 at least
х	GB 2270051 A	(MOORE) Figures 1 and 7	1-4, 7, 8 at least
X	GB 2260300 A	(MOORE) whole document	1-4, 7, 8 at least
x	GB 415843	(CAMILLIS) whole document	1-4 at least
x	US 5125678	(BOGEN) Figures 3 and 6; notice rear suspension	1-4, 6 at least
X	US 5069468	(TSAI) Figures 1 and 2	1-4, 7, 8 a least
X	US 4441729	(BORG-WARNER) Figures 1 to 3	1-4, 7, 8 a least

Databases: The UK Patent Office database comprises classified collections of GB. EP. WO and US patent specifications as outlined periodically in the Official Journal (Patents). The on-line databases considered for search are also listed periodically in the Official Journal (Patents).